

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
April 24, 2008 – **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Karl Schrade, David Hilde

Committee Members Absent: Mike Schlegel – Vice Chairman, Dan Siderius

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky and Juanita Nelson, Commissioner Dale Lauman

Public Attendees: Henry Ralston, Glen Hook, Jean Hook, Tom Gorton, Noel Gorton, Whitey Boughton, Gabe Gluth, Tom Kern, Mark Gluth, Dan Diamond, June Diamond, Dick McAdam, Paul Abel, Brian Cole, Bud Hartley, Lynn Pearce

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Tom Gorton, 578 Creston Road – He reiterated a comment from the last meeting about hiring an independent contractor to maintain roads. He distributed a hand out in reference to the requirements for the Fox Hill Subdivision. He suggested to the committee if they are going to choose a road for the dust abatement project, then Mennonite Church should be the one and the county should put the 3” of gravel down, and then have the developer apply the dust abatement. He hoped the committee will look into the blend of gravel used.

Whitey Boughton, Lupfer Road. – He distributed pictures of Lupfer Road to show the condition of the road. He stated he has tried for several years to have the county and the power company move two power poles that are at the edge of the roadway and potentially hazardous.

Mark Gluth, McMannamy Draw – He wanted to hear the opinions of the committee members regarding the road trip taken on April 16, 2008.

Henry Ralston, 614 Wishart Rd – He distributed a copy of a letter to editor he wrote in the Daily Interlake on April 15, 2008, and stated this procedure of road maintenance works. He suggested that this procedure should be something the committee could look into.

Glenn Hook, 905 Prairie View Road – He stated the Road Department needs to use a little common sense when it comes to grading county roads. His road ¼ - 3/8 of a mile on Prairie View was hard and compact, and then the county graded the road. He stated his wife was taking pictures of the grader grading the road then had an asthma attack because of the dust the grader caused.

Paul Abel, 301 Farm Road – He distributed a diagram of the population of the County and where the majority of voters are located as compared to county roads that are paved. He reiterated that 70% of voters already live in an area that is paved, and they will never pass a license plate fee or a county wide bond issue. He continued that the other 30% of voters that live on gravel roads will vote for these issues, but the population isn't there to get these issues passed. He feels that if the county does any more overlays then they are just putting a death nail in the passing of the bond issue or license plate fees. He still feels the county needs to make the playing field equal for all county residents by making everyone pay for paving and overlays.

Karl Schrade asked Paul if he was considering the bond issue being just used for paving. Paul replied that this could be used for building up of roads, engineering fees, administrative fees for SID's, but convincing the 70% of voters is the difficult task. Karl asked if the bond issue were suggested that paving and overlays done at a one to one, where 1 mile of road is paved and 1 mile is overlayed, would the voters approve it. Paul felt that the voters would pass the bond issue, because they would not be getting their overlays for free.

Noel Gorton, 578 Creston Road – She commented about the last meetings statements about quality control. She reviewed statements on the job description for the Road and Bridge Operation Managers. She questioned the tool allowance for road department staff and if it was for all 56 employees or certain employees. She had asked the road department if the Office Administrators Position had been filled, and if not where was his job duties absorbed.

Dan Diamond, 5385 Rabe Rd – He suggested the issue of license plate fees should be implemented by the commissioners and not be placed on the ballot.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

Karl Schrade moved to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting. David Hilde seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

- a. Continuation and Review of the Last Meeting Concerning Committee's Draft Report to the Commissioners.

Charles Lapp got the understanding from Peccia the assessment of the roads would be more costly. He questioned why the traffic counts in Peccia's transportation study were different from what the county has. He distributed a diagram that Jeff Larson drew up of a typical cross section of a road. He felt if someone else were hired to rate the county roads there needs to other proposals submitted.

Charles Lapp drew a diagram showing his comparisons in costs between paving and dust abatement. He stated to just pave a road, no rebuilding, or gravel; just to lay asphalt is \$200,000 per mile. He figured additional costs \$96,000 for overlays and chip sealing every 20 years. He then showed a dust abatement cost of \$5,500 per mile, but this cost would be applied every year. The dust abatement costs did not include additional gravel; it only included the cost of the oil and the grading to prep the road.

There was discussion on the road standards book and some concerns with the designs being too high of a standard.

David Hilde had some concerns about the contract with Peccia and their not meeting the terms of their contract with the committee. He felt Peccia should provide monthly progress reports and meet with the committee more than what they have.

Charles Lapp stated that the road foreman, Ovila Byrd, is an invaluable source to the county, and having someone like him to evaluate the roads. He is someone that knows what lies underneath these roads, whereas an engineer is going to only know what is on top. He felt the grader operators are the best source for evaluating the roads.

Discussion was held on the recent road trip the committee did and what they saw. Charles Lapp gave an outline of what roads they viewed, and explained that when they traveled at 35 MPH there was not an exorbitant amount of dust created. He felt that hills and curves were in the worst shape and that some of the roads that did not have ditches were going to cause problems. The committee noticed right-of-way issues, such as fences, trees, etc and some of the roads needing to be ditched. They viewed roads that had a proper crown and roads that were not crowned at all.

7. Comments from the Committee Members

Discussion was held that the committee will give the Commissioners a preliminary report of their findings on June 1st. Charles Lapp and David Hilde will meet with the road staff for review of the bullet points for the preliminary

report outline to be presented at the May 8th meeting. David Prunty stated he will talk to Jeff Harris having him and Peccia at the next meeting to discuss the Transportation Study.

Karl Schrade felt the Commissioners need to read the Road Advisory Committee's minutes to be aware of the direction of the committee.

Charles Lapp wants clarification of whether the Transportation Study is a planning tool or a resource tool for the Road Advisory Committee.

8. Adjournment

Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, David Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.